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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/732,770	12/09/2003	Evangelos Zoidis	450117-04827	6949

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EXAMINER

BLACKMAN, ROCHELLE ANN J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2851

DATE MAILED: 12/16/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary	Application No.		Applicant(s)	
	10/732,770		ZOIDIS ET AL.	
	Examiner		Art Unit	
	Rochelle Blackman		2851	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 December 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.
- 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8, 13-20 and 22-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 9-12 and 21 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 09 December 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
 - 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>12/09/03</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claims 1, 3-7, 9, and 14-18 are objected to because a broad range or limitation followed by linking terms (e.g., preferably, maybe, for instance, especially, and in particular) together with a narrow range or limitation that falls within the broad range or limitation (in the same claim) is considered indefinite, since the resulting claim does not clearly set forth the metes and bounds of the patent protection desired. See MPEP § 2173.05(d). Appropriate correction is required.

2. Claims 9, 14, 16, and 22 are objected to because of the following informalities: claim 9 recites the limitation "said surface region" in line 4 of the claim. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim 9; in claim 14, line 7 of the claim, "ist" should be - -its- -, and on line 9, "said first or inner base surface (6i)" should be - -said first or inner base surface (6o)- -; in claim 16, line 4 of the claim, "said projector unit (6r)" should be - -said projector unit (3)- -; claim 22 recites the limitation "said objective unit (4)" in line 2 of the claim. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim 22.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

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A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

1. Claims 1-8, 13-20, and 22-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Spitz (U.S. Patent No. 4,313,665).

Spitz discloses “projector arrangement” (see FIGS. 1-10), comprising: a “projector unit (3)” {64} having an “objective unit (4)”{62} for optically projecting images, in particular on an “external screen (20)”{see *remote surface* in col. 6, lines 65-66}, and an “objective cover unit (6)”(10, 84, 110) for covering a “light exit portion (4e) or light exit surface (4e)”{see 62} of said objective unit (4) in a standby, pause, non-projecting mode and/or non-operation mode of said projector arrangement (1), characterized in that said objective cover unit (6) is adapted to serve and/or to function as a “support or bearing unit (8)”{see function of 10 or 110} for supporting said projector unit (3), in particular on an “external operation surface (100)”{50, 80, or 180}, in an operation mode of said projector arrangement (1); wherein said objective cover unit (6) and/or said projector unit (3) are formed and/or are adapted to allow a “plurality of locations (P2, P3, P4) and/or portions (P2, P3, P4)”{see positions or locations of “projector unit” 62 in FIGS. 3, 5, and 8} of or on said projector unit (3) to be rested on said objective cover unit (6) when said projector unit (3) is supported by said objective cover unit (6) as said support or bearing unit (8) in said operation mode of said projector arrangement (1); “wherein each of said locations (P2, P3, P4) and/or portions (P2, P3, P4) of or on said projector unit (3) are chosen to be assigned to and/or to realize a distinct position and/or orientation of said projector arrangement (1) and in particular of its objective unit (4)

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when said projector unit (3) is supported by said objective cover unit (6) as said support or bearing unit (8) in said operation mode of said projector arrangement (1)"{also see positions or locations of "projector unit" 62 in FIGS. 3, 5, and 8}; a "projector arrangement" (see FIGS. 1-10), comprising: a "projector unit (3)"{64} having an "objective unit (4)"{62} for optically projecting images, in particular on an "external screen (20)"{see *remote surface* in col. 6, lines 65-66} characterized in that a "surface region (2a)"{16, 20, 22, 30} is provided having a "plurality of locations (P2, P3, P4) and/or portions (P2, P3, P4)"{see 16, 20, 22, and 30} being adapted for directly or indirectly resting on, in particular an "external operation or working surface (100)"{50, 80, or 180}, in an operation mode or projecting mode of said projector arrangement (1) and that "each of said locations (P2, P3, P4) and/or portions (P2, P3, P4) of or on said projector unit (3) are chosen to be assigned to and/or to realize a distinct position and/or orientation of said projector arrangement (1) and in particular of its objective unit (4) in said operation mode or projecting mode of said projector arrangement (1)"{see positions or locations of "projector" 62 in FIGS. 3, 5, and 8}; "wherein fixing means is/are provided for detachably fixing said projector arrangement (1) and in particular said projector unit (3) in each of said locations (P2, P3, P4) and/or portions (P2, P3, P4) and in particular in each of said distinct positions and/or orientations, when resting in or on a respective location (P2, P3, P4) and/or portion (P2, P3, P4)"{see 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44 in FIGS. 1, 2, and 4}; wherein an "objective cover unit (6)"{10, 84, 110} for covering a "light exit portion (4e) or light exit surface (4e) of said objective unit (4) in a standby, pause, non-projecting mode and/or non-operation mode of said projector arrangement (1), and

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wherein that said objective cover unit (6) is adapted to serve and/or to function as a "support or bearing unit (8)" {see function of 10 or 110} for supporting said projector unit (3) and/or as said fixing means (8), in particular on an external operation surface (100), in an operation mode of said projector arrangement (1); wherein each of said locations (P2, P3, P4) and/or portions (P2, P3, P4) of or on said projector unit (3) are chosen to be assigned to and/or to realize "distinct--vertical and/or horizontal--projection angles (α_2 , α_3 , α_4) or inclination angles (α_2 , α_3 , α_4)" {see orientation of "projector unit" 64 in FIG. 3 – the "projector unit" 64 is considered to be tiltable at or to various or many "projection angles"} of said projector arrangement (1) and in particular of its objective unit (4) when said projector unit (3) is supported by said objective cover unit (6) as said support or bearing unit (8) in said operation mode of said projector arrangement (1) and/or in particular with respect to a horizontal plane of an "external operating surface (100)" {50} and/or with respect to said external screen (20); wherein said objective cover unit (6) and/or said projector unit (3) are formed and/or are adapted to provide a "continuously distributed plurality of said locations/portions (P2, P3, P4), positions/orientations and/or projection angles (α_2 , α_3 , α_4) or inclination angles (α_2 , α_3 , α_4)" {also see orientation of "projector unit" 64 in FIG. 3 – the "projector unit" 64 is considered to be tiltable "continuously" at or to various or many "locations/positions/orientations/projection angles"}; "wherein said objective cover unit (6) is formed as a detachable cap for said objective unit (4)" (see FIG. 7 – the "detachable cap" is considered to be element 10 along with cover 86); wherein said objective cover unit (6) comprises: a "first or inner base surface (6o)" {see 22 and 84} adapted to face said light exit portion (4e) or light exit

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surface (4e) of said objective unit (4) in said standby, pause, non-projecting and/or non-operating mode and to face said projector unit (3) and in particular said base portion (2) further in particular its surface (2a) in said operation mode of said projector arrangement (1), and a "second or outer base surface (6b)" {see 32, 120, 220} situated opposite said first or inner base surface (6i) and therefore situated opposite from said light exit portion or said light exit surface (4e) of said objective unit (4) in said standby, pause, non-projecting, and/or non-operating mode and opposite said base portion (2) and/or said surface (2a) thereof in said operation mode and which is in particular adapted to face and rest on said external operating surface (100) in said operation mode; said objective cover unit (6) comprises a "rim portion (6r)" {18 and 26}, in particular provided on the periphery of said first or inner base surface (60) and projecting away from said first or inner base surface (60), in particular essentially in the direction of the inner base surface's (60) normal (n6), thereby "forming abutment surfaces (6u)" {see 18 and 26 in FIG. 5} adapted to support or to have rested on said projector unit (3), in particular said base portion (2) and in particular its surface (2a) in said operation mode of said projector arrangement (1); "wherein said objective cover unit (6) as said support or bearing unit (8) and in particular its rim portion (6r) and/or said abutment surfaces (6u) and/or said projector unit (6r) and in particular its base portion (2) are formed and adapted to realized one or an arbitrary combination or plurality of the following aspects: cooperation and/or engaging of respective shapes and/or surfaces, frictional interaction forces between each other, stable and/or equilibrated support of said projector unit" {see 18 and 26 in FIGS. 1 and 5}; wherein said projector unit (3) and in particular its base

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portion (2) have a "shape and/or a mass distribution"(see "projector unit" 31) so as to ensure to be supported by said support or bearing unit (8) in mass or gravitational equilibrium; wherein said objective cover unit (6) and in particular its rim portion (6r) comprise "position holding or fixing elements"(see 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44 in FIGS. 1, 2, and 4} for ensuring an essentially fixed positioning of the supported and rested projector unit (3) in said operation mode.

2. Claims 1, 13, 17, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Tada (JP Patent No. 2002-296670).

Tada discloses projector arrangement (see Drawings 1-6), comprising: a "projector unit (3)"(31) having an "objective unit (4)"(32) for optically projecting images, in particular on an "external screen (20)"(although not specifically shown, the "projection unit" 31 is considered to project the "images" onto some sort of display, surface or "screen"), and an "objective cover unit (6)"(1) for covering a "light exit portion (4e) or light exit surface (4e)"(see 32) of said objective unit (4) in a standby, pause, non-projecting mode and/or non-operation mode of said projector arrangement (1), characterized in that said objective cover unit (6) is adapted to serve and/or to function as a "support or bearing unit (8)"(see 1 in Drawing 3) for supporting said projector unit (3), in particular on an "external operation surface (100)"(see surface where 1 and 31 are resting on), in an operation mode of said projector arrangement (1); wherein said objective cover unit (6) is formed as a "detachable cap"(see 1) for said objective unit (4); wherein said objective cover unit (6) as said support or bearing unit (8) and in particular its rim portion (6r) and/or said abutment surfaces (6u) and/or said projector unit (6r) and

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in particular its base portion (2) are formed and adapted to realized one or an arbitrary combination or plurality of the following aspects: "cooperation and/or engaging of respective shapes and/or surfaces, frictional interaction forces between each other, stable and/or equilibrated support of said projector unit"(see "projector unit" 31 relative to "objective cover unit/ support or bearing unit" 1 in Drawing 3); wherein said objective cover unit (6) and in particular its rim portion (6r) comprise "position holding or fixing elements"{2a} for ensuring an essentially fixed positioning of the supported and rested projector unit (3) in said operation mode.

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 9-12, and 21 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.
2. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Claims 9-12 and 21 have been found to be allowable because the prior art of record either alone or in combination neither discloses nor makes obvious the particular feature, "said projector unit comprises a base portion having a surface...at least a part of which being continuously and/or smoothly curved in an at least local convex manner" in combination with the particular combination of features recited in claim 1 or 4.

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Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Rochelle Blackman whose telephone number is (571) 272-2113. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Judy Nguyen can be reached on (571) 272-2258. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

RB


JUDY NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER